



# The International Fancy Guppy Association



Dedicated to Promoting The Fancy Guppy Hobby

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## Females and Red Bi-Colors

By Darwin Gudex

Should I use virgin females or Not? Well, how many tanks are available? If only a limited number of tanks are available. virgin females can be maintained in a breeding trap. The product is by Lustar and is #L242-C. It can be kept in the same tank as the males. On the other hand pre-bred females can be used, provided you know what you are doing.

Successful breeders, Ed Richmond, Jim Alderson and Tom Allen use non virgin females. Basically, the selected male is in with the birthing female. If he is infertile, you're stuck. To be sure of getting all from the selected male (provided he's fertile), the safest route is to discard the next three litters.

I've been reading and think that I might have found a shortcut. Simply have several good males with the female while she's giving birth. Paul Hahnel and Leon Whitney, DVM, had an article entitled, "The Guppy's Anatomy." My excerpt is from The Guppy Newsletter, October 1992, page 8. Bear in mind that gold and albino in guppies is recessive.

"One of the most important problems which we have studied is whether a female, once fertilized, can be fertilized by a second or third male. This experiment was done by mating a gold female to a gold male. While she was giving birth to golden young, several young natural colored males were placed in the tank. In her next litter there were no golds; the sperm of the natural colored males had done the fertilizing. The experiment was repeated many times with the same results. Then it was tried with albino females with again the same results.

The conclusion seems to indicate that if a female is bred to one male he can provide sperm for several litters. But if at about the time of giving birth the female is mated to another male, the freshet sperm is likely to fertilize the next batch of eggs. This has practical value in breeding."

Pan Pacific's article originally appeared in the April 1990 issue of All About Guppies.

I also like red bicolors. I wouldn't be trying to make my own if I knew that some were available earlier.

Jim Alderson DVM, had an article entitled "Painting with Guppies" in the Guppy Roundtable, April 1993, page 10. The quote is called "Great Red Bi Color Recipe."

"Red male into snakeskin females. You can cross the male offspring back into a red female for more color or cross back into the snakeskin females to pick up more pattern. Always cross the red bicolor male back into the snake female. Remember the snakeskin pattern in the body is carried by the male on the Y chromosome and is dominant. Anytime you breed a snakeskin male to any female. all the males will be snakeskin unless some crossover of genetic material occurs or you get a rare point mutation."

I would just add one thing that I was advised. Use a yellow lace variegated snakeskin female to cross with the, red male. The lace snakeskin female can be distinguished from a regular snakeskin female. It has very little. if any, pattern in the caudal. It gives a nice pattern of small black dots in the male's tail.

Another way to get red bi colors is to inbreed the hybrid cross of snakeskin female and red male. One gets multis. and as the genes segregate. red and AOC bi colors. The biggest drawback will be zebrinus bars on the males.

Presently, I have some young hybrids from the cross of red male and yellow lace variegated snakeskin female. All of the males are starting to color and show red in the caudal. The females resemble the lace female. Since I don't have any yellow lace variegated snakeskins, I may decide to inbreed the hybrids. They may reappear as the traits segregate. It was also suggested that I use the red into my hybrid female. Time will tell what I decide on that one. I also will keep in mind the red bicolor recipe.

So where do females fit in this? Simple. I prefer virgin females. But if I have to I will use non virgin. I'll just have her with several good males. That way there is no need to wait a few months for fry. As to you readers, you have to do what works best for you.

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## Filtration



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